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FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9726  
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE  
RUEHBW/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE 0340  
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN IMMEDIATE 1822  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 1458  
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE 1833  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE 4410  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE 2381  
RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE IMMEDIATE 2869  
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN IMMEDIATE 9209  
RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES IMMEDIATE 3019  
RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEHPS/USOFFICE PRISTINA IMMEDIATE 0423  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0849  
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE IMMEDIATE 0336  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE 4600  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 000104

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [SR](#) [KV](#)

SUBJECT: KOSOVO: ITALIANS MAY NOT SEEK TO DELAY COORDINATED  
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

REF: A) ROME 94 B) ROME 71

Classified By: Jonathan R. Cohen, Acting Political Minister Counselor,  
for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (C) The GOI is backing away from a Spanish-inspired push to postpone Kosovo's declaration of independence from February to Mid-March, after the Spanish elections. On January 15, FM D'Alema told the Ambassador that the GOI preferred a go-slow approach to avoid interfering in the Spanish elections and to give the EU more time to bring the largest number of countries into the first wave of those who would recognize immediately (Ref B). PM Prodi's senior diplomatic advisor Stefano Sannino reiterated that point to the Ambassador the following day.

12. (C) However, on January 24, Raimondo De Cardona, Head of the MFA Balkans Office, told poloff that although Italy would have preferred a March declaration, it had failed to convince other European members of the Quint to support a delay (a British Poloff confirmed the GOI had made a case for postponement to the UK). Additionally, current Italian government instability meant that FM D'Alema could not argue forcefully in favor of postponement, since there was a possibility that he would not be around to implement that policy.

13. (C) De Cardona noted that one positive outcome of Italy's current domestic political situation would be that parliamentary opposition to Italian recognition of Kosovo's independence would likely be muted, as political parties would be focused almost exclusively on the government crisis.  
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